

comments on that final rule. EPA will address the comments received in a subsequent final action in the near future. EPA will not institute a second comment period on this document.

**DATES:** The direct final rule published at 62 FR 59813 is withdrawn as of December 19, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Brenda Millar, Emissions, Monitoring, and Analysis Division (MD-14), Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711, Telephone: (919)541-4036, e-mail: millar.brenda@epa.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** See the information provided in the direct final rule located in the final rules section of the November 5, 1997 **Federal Register** and in the informational document located in the proposed rule section of the November 5, 1997 **Federal Register**.

#### **List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 58**

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Intergovernmental relations, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Quality assurance requirements, Ambient air quality monitoring network.

Dated: December 18, 1997.

**Robert Brenner,**

*Acting Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

#### **50 CFR Part 622**

[Docket No. 940246-4137; I.D. 121697D]

#### **Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery off the Southern Atlantic States; Snowy Grouper; Commercial Trip Limit Reduction**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Trip limit reduction.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS reduces the commercial trip limit for snowy grouper in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off the southern Atlantic states to 300 lb (136 kg). This trip limit reduction is necessary to protect the snowy grouper resource.

**DATES:** Effective 12:01 a.m., local time, December 20, 1997, through December 31, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Peter Eldridge, 813-570-5305.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The snapper-grouper fishery off the southern Atlantic states is managed under the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (FMP). The FMP was prepared by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and is implemented under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act by regulations at 50 CFR part 622.

The commercial quota for snowy grouper, one of the species in the

snapper-grouper complex, is 344,508 lb (156,266 kg), gutted weight, each fishing year. The fishing year is January 1 through December 31. In accordance with 50 CFR 622.44(c)(2), a commercial trip limit of 2,500 lb (1,134 kg) applies until the quota is reached. When the quota is reached, or is projected to be reached, NMFS is required to reduce the commercial trip limit to 300 lb (136 kg), through the end of the fishing year.

Based on current statistics, NMFS has projected that the commercial quota for snowy grouper will be reached on December 19, 1997. Accordingly, the commercial trip limit for snowy grouper in or from the EEZ off the southern Atlantic states is reduced to 300 lb (136 kg) effective 12:01 a.m., local time, December 20, 1997, through December 31, 1997. During this period, no more than 300 lb (136 kg), round weight or gutted weight, of snowy grouper may be possessed on board or landed, purchased, or sold from a vessel that has a valid commercial permit for snapper-grouper per day. The possession of a valid commercial permit notwithstanding, the bag and possession limits apply when a vessel is operating as a charter vessel or headboat.

#### **Classification**

This action is taken under 50 CFR 622.43(a) and 622.44(c) and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: December 16, 1997.

**Bruce C. Morehead,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 97-33385 Filed 12-18-97; 11:43 am]

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